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NEWS RELEASE

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Public can track rescued eaglet, thanks to new satellite transmitter

PHOENIX — People can now follow the movements of an eaglet rescued by the Arizona Game and Fish Department on the Internet. Today, bald eagle biologists with the department fitted the fostered nestling with a radio transmitter just north of Horseshoe Lake.

This particular nestling was one of two eggs rescued, when their male parent was found severely injured near a recreation area along the lower Salt River. The eggs were taken to Liberty Wildlife Rehabilitation in Scottsdale, where they hatched. While the other eaglet did not survive, this nestling was placed into a nest with a foster family on April 12.

"So far, the eaglet is doing well," says the head of the Arizona Game and Fish Department's bald eagle management program, James Driscoll. "She has been accepted by her foster family and getting bigger. We expect this nestling, named "Sutton," to take her first flight in the next three weeks."

Biologists with the Arizona Game and Fish Department have fitted several young eagles with satellite transmitters. This allows the scientists to monitor the progress of the juveniles along their migration routes to northern parts of the United States. The nestlings spend summers in the northern states exploiting the trout and salmon spawns, and return to Arizona in the fall.

The public can track the movements of the eaglets, as well, using the Migration Maps on the Southwestern Bald Eagle Management Committee's webpage at www.usbr.gov/lc/Phoenix/SWBEMC. The webpage will start monitoring the movements of this nestling as soon as it begins its migration in 7 weeks.

"This is a great way for people to learn more about bald eagles," says Driscoll. "It's an interactive tool that lets the public get more involved with Arizona's bald eagle management program."

Arizona currently has 41 breeding pairs of bald eagles. The Arizona Game and Fish Department has a nest watch program that monitors the progress of these raptors during the breeding season.

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Note to media: Video of the rescued eaglet was previously made available by the Arizona Game and Fish Department and can be used with this story update. If your media outlet does not have this video, you can obtain a copy by calling Arizona Game and Fish Department public information officer Debbie Freeman at (602) 789-3215.

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